Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.121 as follows.

Please amend the paragraph bridging pages 42 and 43 as follows:

Publicly available software are used to map a locus for transpiration efficiency. Such software include, for example, the following:

(i)   MapMaker/QTL (ftp://genome.wi.mit.edu/pub/mapmaker3/), for analyzing F2 or backcross data using standard interval mapping;

(ii)   MQTL, for composite interval mapping in multiple environments or for performing simple interval mapping using homozygous progeny (eg. double haploids, or recombinant inbred lines);

(iii)   PLABQTL (Utz and Melchinger, PLABlocus Version 1.0. A computer program to map QTL, Institut für Pflanzenzüchtung, Saatgutforschung und Populationsgenetik, Universität Hohenheim, 70593 Stuttgart, Germany, 1995; http://www.uni-hohenheim.de/~ipspwww/soft.html) for composite interval mapping and simple interval mapping of a locus in mapping populations derived from a bi-parental cross by selfing, or in double haploids;

(iv)   QTL Cartographer (http://statgen.ncsu.edu/qtlcart/cartographer.html) for single-marker regression, interval mapping, or composite interval mapping, using F2 or backcross populations;

(v)   MapQTL (http://www.cpro.dlo.nl/cbw/); Qgene for performing either single-marker regression or interval regression to map loci; and

(vi)   SAS for detecting a locus by identifying associations between marker genotype and transpiration efficiency by a single marker analysis approach such as ANOVA, t-test, GLM or REG.

Please amend the paragraph on page 78, lines 13 to 21 as follows:

Nine such mutants were identified in the publicly available collection of transposon TOS17 insertional mutants at the Japanese NIAS Institute. The TOS17 retrotransposon is described in detail by Hirochika, *Current Opinion in Plant Biology, 4,* 118-122, 2001 and by Hirochika *Plant Mol Biol 35*, 231-240, 1997, which is incorporated herein by reference. The nine mutant lines were identified through the website URL, ~~URL http://tos.nias.affrc.go.jp/~miyao/pub/tos17/,~~ and they have the accession numbers NG0578 (mutant A), ND3052 (mutant B), ND4028 (mutant C), NC0661 (mutant D), NE1049 (mutant E), NF8517 (mutant F), NE8025 (mutant G), NE3033 (mutant H) and NF8002 (mutant I).

Please replace the paragraph on page 42, lines 25 to page 43, lines 14 with the following paragraph:

Metabolic anti-transpirants generally close stomata, thereby reducing the rate of transpiration. Typical metabolic anti-transpirants include succinic acids, phenylmercuric acetate, hydroxysulfonates, the herbicide atrazine, sodium azide, and phenylhydrazones, as well as carbon cyanide.